

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for swapping a disk-like member, said apparatus comprising:

at least two tong-like arms for accepting and holding the disk-like member; and

a driving-mechanism adapted to drive said at least two tong-like arms, wherein said driving-mechanism is adapted to provide a first movement and a second movement to said at least two tong-like arms, said first movement comprising a vertically oriented movement of said at least two tong-like arms between an up position and a down position, said second movement comprising a horizontally oriented tong-like movement of said at least two tong-like arms, wherein said at least two tong-like arms turn around fulcrums.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving-mechanism comprises a lever apparatus and/or spindle means for controlling said first and second movements.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving-mechanism, when performing said second movement, moves said at least two tong-like arms between at least one hold position and at least one release position.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said driving-mechanism moves said at least one hold position is two different hold positions and said at least one release position is two different hold release positions corresponding to said two different hold positions.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving-mechanism comprises an elevation [[contrivance]] device and a manipulator drive.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least two tong-like arms comprise extension members.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least two tong-like arms comprise means for gripping the disk-like member.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said gripping means comprises at least one grooved circular ring section adapted to a dimension of the disk-like member.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a housing including at least a part of said driving-mechanism.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least two tong-like arms ~~comprise a tong-like structure which enables the arms are formed to be front-loaded or back-loaded.~~

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving-mechanism comprises at least one driving motor.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least two tong-like arms are affixed to said driving-mechanism.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for detecting the disk-like member and/or for detecting a position of said at least two tong-like arms.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for controlling said driving mechanism to control movement of said at least two tong-like arms.

15. (Currently amended) A method for handling or transporting disk-like members, comprising:

transporting a first disk-like member with a first transporter from a first position to an exchange region;

loading said first disk-like member into said exchange region;

transporting a second disk-like member with a second transporter to said exchange region;

loading said second disk-like member from said second transporter to said first transporter;

transferring said first disk-like member from said exchange region to said second transporter; and

transporting said first disk-like member to a second position with said second transporter.

16. (Currently amended) A handling line for handling disk-like members, comprising:

a disk-like member exchange region;

a first transporter; ~~having~~

a first set of arms;

a first driving-mechanism adapted to drive said first set of arms, said first driving-mechanism providing said first set of arms with a first movement and a second movement, said first movement comprising a vertically oriented movement and said second movement comprising a horizontally oriented tong-like movement;

a second transporter; ~~having~~

a second set of arms;

a second driving-mechanism adapted to drive said second set of arms, said second driving-mechanism providing said second set of arms with [[said]] a first movement and [[said]] a second movement, said first movement comprising a vertically oriented movement and said second movement comprising a horizontally oriented tong-like movement; and

a controller for controlling said first transporter set of arms to move through [[said]] its first and second movements so that a first disk-like member is transferred to said exchange region, and said second transporter set of arms to move through [[said]] its first and second movements so that a second disk-like member is transferred to said first transporter at said exchange region.

17. (Original) The handling line according to claim 16, wherein said first transporter and/or said second transporter comprises a device selected from the group consisting of an x-y-stage, a chuck, and a robot.

18. (Original) The handling line according to claim 16, wherein said controller controls said second transporter to transfer said first disk-like member from said exchange region to said second transporter.

19. (Original) The handling line according to claim 18, wherein said controller controls said second transporter to move said first disk-like member to a second position.

20. (New) An apparatus for swapping a disk-like member, said apparatus comprising:

at least two tong-like arms for accepting and holding the disk-like member; and

a driving-mechanism adapted to drive said at least two tong-like arms, wherein said driving-mechanism is adapted to provide a first movement and a second movement to said at least two tong-like arms, said first movement comprising a vertically oriented movement of said at least two tong-like arms between an up position and a down position, said second movement comprising a horizontally oriented tong-like movement of said at least two tong-like arms, wherein said driving-mechanism comprises a lever apparatus and/or spindle means for controlling said first and second movements.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said driving-mechanism, when performing said second movement, moves said at least two tong-like arms between at least one hold position and at least one release position.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said at least one hold position is two different hold positions and said at least one release position is two

different release positions corresponding to said two different hold positions.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said at least two tong-like arms comprise extension members.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said at least two tong-like arms comprise means for gripping the disk-like member.

25. (New) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said gripping means comprises at least one grooved circular ring section adapted to a dimension of the disk-like member.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a housing including at least a part of said driving-mechanism.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said at least two tong-like arms are formed to be front-loaded or back-loaded.

28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said driving-mechanism comprises at least one driving motor.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said at least two tong-like arms are affixed to said driving-mechanism.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising means for detecting the disk-like member and/or for detecting a position of said at least two tong-like arms.

31. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising means for controlling said driving mechanism to control movement of said at least two tong-like arms.